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To: "Burbank, Arthur L -FS" <arthur.burbank@usda.gov>
Date: 5/20/2020 9:08:50 AM
Subject: Qs from FSTM2 review

Hi Art,

A few questions (in blue below) that have come up from the FSTM2 doc and presentation preliminary review, for clarification. It would be helpful to get these answered before submitting comments.

1. The slideshow describes the design and selection process for a cover system. What plants are intended to be grown on the site? Was this chosen for technical reasons only or does it also support the chosen adjacent ecosystem (trees / grass)?
2. For the ET cover with a capillary break, two questions about the designs presented in the slideshow-
 - a) if the cap break was thicker and more expensive than the unlayered cover, and if they both minimize infiltration, why chose the more complicated cover?
 - b) cap breaks fail due to:
 - a. Flaws in membranes,
 - b. Installation problems,
 - c. Infiltration of fines through membranes over time (inevitable), and
 - d. Root infiltration

Deep roots are essential for successful plants in the climate around the Smoky Mine. The weather patterns for the site area favor plants that are resilient and resistant to drought and storm. Whatever plants are successful on this cover will likely penetrate a membrane a few feet below ground. Is there a plant expert on the design team?

Thanks!
Jennifer

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